

- Permeable membrane for gas separation - comprises asymmetric polysulphone support layer coated with a polymeric separation layer.

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A composite permeable membrane (I) for gas sepn. is claimed comprising:
(a) a porous, polymeric asymmetric support layer having a dense
semi-permeable skin (II) and a less dense, porous support region; and (b)
a sepn. layer (III) deposited on (II), but not altering the structure of
the support layer; (III) having a selectivity for the more readily
permeable component of a gas mixt. equal to or greater than those of (II).
(I) is pref. in the form of a hollow fibre.
A process for prepn. of (I) is also claimed in which the support
layer is produced in a porous form, washed, dried and then exposed to a
temp. approaching the Tg of the membrane material under non-swelling
conditions for a time sufficient to form asymmetry in the membrane with
increased compaction resistance and collapse pressure. Opt. (II) can be
deposited on the support layer before or after treatment to form
asymmetry. Also claimed is the use of (I) to separate gas mixts
., pref. air (into O2 and N2), or mixts. of H2 and N2, or mixts.
of CO2 and CH4. An asymmetric membrane comprising the support layer (a)
and having enhanced gas separation characteristics is also claimed.

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